

MARIE

On the 1st of April a tropical disturbance was detected by satellite near 10N - 140E. Synoptic data revealed a weak surface cyclonic circulation with an associated upper level anticyclone. The system drifted slowly southward for the next 2 days. At 0030Z on the 3rd a formation alert was issued when synoptic data indicated the system had intensified to 25 kt, and increasing upper level outflow to the north promised good potential for further intensification. At 0600Z on the 3rd the first warning was issued. Six hours later the system was upgraded to Tropical Storm Marie when synoptic data confirmed aircraft reports of 35 kt winds.

Influenced by weak steering flow, the storm turned eastward in a counterclockwise loop, and during the evening of the 4th began taking a slow, southerly heading. Tropical Storm Marie intensified, and by 0600Z on the 5th had attained typhoon strength. Twelve hours later the typhoon had acquired a 6 kt movement toward the west-northwest, and for the next 48 hours maintained 65 kt winds.

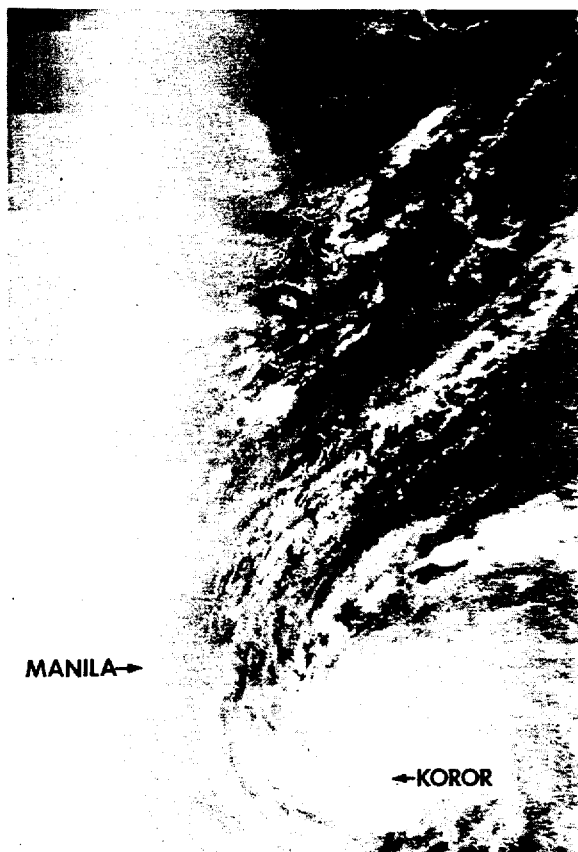


FIGURE 4-3. Moonlight image of Typhoon Marie near 70 kt intensity 70 nm north-northeast of Koror, Palau Islands, 7 April 1976, 1042Z. (DMSP imagery)

On the evening of the 7th, the typhoon once again began to intensify, as upper tropospheric winds over the Philippine Islands backed, indicating deeper troughing to the west and a more efficient link of the storm's outflow channel with the mid-latitude westerlies (Fig. 4-3). This intensification continued slowly during the subsequent 84 hours at a rate of about $\frac{1}{2}$ mb per hour.

At 1500Z on the 7th Typhoon Marie passed 40 nm north of Palau with peak gusts of 75 kt and a minimum sea level pressure of 993 mb recorded at Koror. While no deaths or injuries were reported, damage of more than \$4 million was incurred on the Palau Islands. Crop destruction was extensive as was damage to buildings and public utilities. As a result, Palau was declared a major disaster area.

By 0000Z on the 8th a weakness in the subtropical ridge appeared near the eastern coast of the Philippines. In response, Marie turned northward and recurved. During the typhoon's western-most position at 2100Z on the 10th, the system reached its maximum intensity of 115 kt (Fig. 4-4). The lowest sea-level pressure was 929 mb recorded by aircraft at 2031Z on the 10th. Typhoon Marie maintained 115 kt winds for 24 hours as its northeast movement increased to 11 kt. By 1800Z on the 11th Marie began to weaken while accelerating on a northeast track, closely following the 700 mb flow. Two days later the final warning was issued as Marie became extratropical.

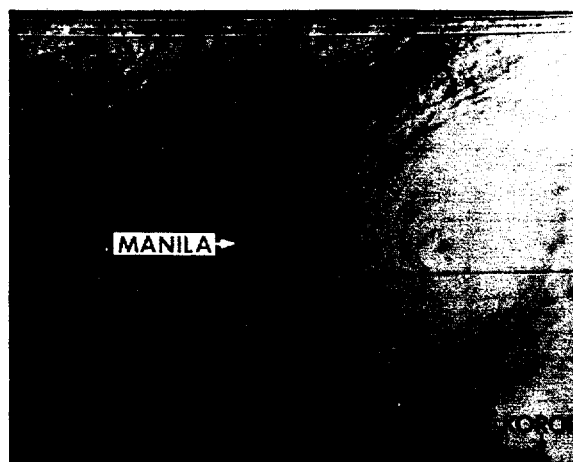


FIGURE 4-4. Typhoon Marie at point of recurvature with winds at peak intensity 450 nm east of Manila, 10 April 1976, 2251Z. (DMSP imagery)